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UNITED STATES

HUA KUO-FENG, OTHERS WELCOME NIXON PARTY

Peking NCNA in English 1500 GMT 21 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 21, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Richard M. Nixon, former president of the United States of America, and Mrs Nixon arrived in Peking by special plane this evening on a visit to China at the invitation of the Chinese Government. They were greeted at the airport by Hua Kuo-feng, acting premier of the State Council; Yao Lien-wei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Chiao Kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs; Liu Hsiang-ping, minister of public health; Huang Chen, chief of the Liaison Office of the People's Republic of China in the United States; Wang Hai-jung, vice-minister of foreign affairs; Chu Mu-chih, director of the HSINHUA NEWS AGENCY; Fu Yu-tang, member of the NPC Standing Committee; leading members of departments concerned Chang Han-chih, Chu Lin, Lin Ping, Tang Wen-sheng, and Fu Shun-ho; and more than 350 other people from the Chinese capital including personages of various circles who have visited the United States.

During his tenure of office as U.S. president, Mr Nixon paid a historic visit to China with Mrs Nixon 4 years ago, arriving in Peking on February 21, 1972.

When they alighted from the plane, Mr and Mrs Nixon were warmly welcomed by Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng, Vice-Chairman Yao Lien-wei and others at the planeside. After shaking hands with their hosts, Mr and Mrs Nixon walked round to greet the clapping welcomers. Also meeting them at the airport were Harry E. T. Thayer, deputy chief of the Liaison Office of the United States of America in China, and members of Mr Nixon's entourage who arrived in Peking earlier. Chu Chuan-hsien, director of the Protocol Department of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, made a special trip to Los Angeles in the United States to greet Mr and Mrs Nixon and accompanied them to Peking.

Nixon Itinerary

Hong Kong AFP in English 1215 GMT 21 Feb 76 OW

[Excerpt] Peking, Feb 21 (AFP)--Former U.S. President Richard Nixon, due here today as a personal guest of the Chinese Government, will have ample opportunity to see, photograph and have translated the wallposters which reflect the open political "struggle" which has been going on here since the beginning of the month. Mr Nixon, who is to arrive late in the evening for a week-long visit to China, will, according to his programme, visit Peking's Tsinghua University--one of the "hot spots" in the open campaign against certain Chinese leaders, and [words indistinct] against Deputy Prime Minister Teng Hsiao-ping.

The programme drawn up for Mr Nixon and his wife, Patricia, and revealed today to resident journalists here by Chinese authorities, provides for a 5-day stay in the capital and a brief visit to the southern towns of Kueilin and Canton. In Peking, Mr Nixon will have "talks" and "interviews" with Chinese leaders whose names are not yet known, an authoritative Chinese source said. Observers believe he will almost definitely meet Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

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A welcome banquet Sunday night for the Nixons will be offered by China's "Council of State" that is, the entire government and not in the name of Hua Kuo-feng who now serves as Premier in place of the late Chou En-lai.

Apart from Tsinghua University, Mr Nixon will visit Peking's history museum and an agricultural exhibition on the showpiece production brigade of Tachai. Mrs Nixon will visit several places of interest including a children's garden. A "cultural soiree" is also scheduled for the Nixons. The former U.S. president and his wife will in all probability stay in the residence where Mr Nixon stayed in 1972 and where U.S. President Gerald Ford resided last December.

The couple will leave Peking on the morning of February 26 for Kuailin, renowned for its countryside. After a brief stay in Canton they will head back to the United States on February 29.

NIXON MEETS WITH CHOU EN-LAI'S WIDOW

Peking NCNA in English 0803 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 22, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Richard M. Nixon, former president of the United States of America, and Mrs. Nixon called on Madame Teng Ying-chao, widow of the late Premier Chou En-lai, here this morning. They expressed their deep condolences on the death of the late premier.

Madame Teng Ying-chao had a cordial conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Nixon. She thanked them for the sympathy they had extended to her after the death of Premier Chou En-lai. Present on the occasion were Chiao Kuan-hua, Huang Chen, Wang Hai-jung, Chang Han-chih, Chu Lin and Chu Chuan-hsien.

AFP Report

Hong Kong AFP in English 0609 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Excerpts] Peking February 22 (AFP)--Former president Richard Nixon met with the widow of Chinese Premier Chou En-lai here this morning to convey his condolences to her on the first full day of his visit to China.

Accompanied by his wife Pat and Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua, Mr Nixon met for 55 minutes in the National People's Congress building here with the 71-year-old Mrs Teng Ying-Chao, who is herself a member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee. The meeting was seen as a significant gesture by Mr Nixon because it was with Mr Chou that he worked to bring about the establishment of relations between China and the United States.

The congress building was decked out with dozens of red flags, signifying the presence in the city of a foreign guest on an official visit.

During the first few minutes of the meeting, reporters heard Mrs Teng, who was dressed in a light grey tunic and trousers, tell Mr Nixon that she had informed her husband in the hospital that the former president had accepted his invitation to return to China. "Chou was quite pleased," she said. "It was a great pity that Chou could not welcome you as he has left us."

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Mr Nixon, dressed in a blue suit, said he much regretted that he had not come in time to pay a last visit to the premier with whom he drafted the 1972 Shanghai Communique which "normalised" Sino-U.S. relations after 20 years of hostility. "I have seen many world leaders," he said, "but Chou was a great man. He had a good understanding of the whole world, not only his part of the world, and a great ability to analyse problems.

"He was pragmatic in his decisions in the best interest of his nation as well as of other nations. The word 'great' is used so much when leaders pass away and it begins to mean nothing, but in Chou's case he truly was a great leader. He left a legacy behind," Mr Nixon said.

The Sunday edition of the PEOPLE'S DAILY, the official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, published a large frontpage photograph of the Nixons' arrival at Peking airport the previous evening. The photo showed the American visitors, walking ahead of Hua Kuo-feng, and smiling at dozens of little girls waving bouquets of paper flowers.

HUA KUO-FENG TALKS WITH NIXON 22 FEB

Peking NCNA in English 1210 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 22, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Hua Kuo-feng, acting premier of the State Council, held talks here this afternoon with Richard M. Nixon, former president of the United States of America. Among those present were Chinese Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua, chief of the Chinese Liaison Office in the United States Huang Chen, Vice-Foreign Minister Wang Hai-jung and Lin Ping, Chu Chuan-hsien, Tang Wen-sheng and Chien Ta-yung.

AFP Report

Hong Kong AFP in English 1109 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[By Rene Flipo]

[Excerpts] Peking, Feb 22 (AFP)--Former United States President Richard Nixon this afternoon had a first session of talks with Chinese leaders in the People's Congress buildings. Mr Nixon, who arrived here for a visit yesterday evening, met principally with Mr Hua Kuo-feng, China's interim prime minister since February 7. The former president, who is the personal guest of the Chinese Government, thus began the "official" part of his visit to Peking which authorized Chinese sources continued to describe as a "private visit".

The first meeting today took place in the same room where in 1972 the late Premier Chou En-lai had long hours of talks with Mr Nixon who was then president of the United States. It was also in this same room that President Ford had talks last December with Vice-Premier Teng Hsiao-ping. Interim Premier Hua Kuo-feng reminded Mr Nixon at the start of today's meeting that exactly 4 years ago he was sitting in the same place opposite Prime Minister Chou En-lai.

Mr Hua Kuo-feng then "officially" greeted Mr Nixon with a "welcome in the name of the Chinese Government" and recalled the "important significance" of his 1972 visit. An impressive number of high government officials attended the meeting, as many as are customary during talks in Peking between Chinese leaders and foreign heads of state. In addition to Mr Hua Kuo-feng, they included Foreign Minister Chiao Kuan-hua, head of the Chinese Liaison Office in Washington Huang Chen, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs Wang Hai-jung, and Lin Ping, director of the Department of America and the Pacific at the Foreign Ministry.

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During their first meeting which lasted 2 hours and 20 minutes, Mr Nixon and Mr Hua had an "exchange of views on international questions of common interest", an official Chinese spokesman reported. An American source said the talks would resume tomorrow afternoon.

STATE COUNCIL GIVES BANQUET FOR NIXON

Peking NCNA in English 1654 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 22, 1976 (HSINHUA)--The State Council gave a banquet in the Great Hall of the People here this evening to warmly welcome Richard M. Nixon, former president of the United States of America, and Mrs Nixon.

Acting Premier of the State Council Hua Kuo-feng hosted the banquet. Present at the banquet were Yao Lien-wei, vice-chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress; Chiao Kuan-hua, minister of foreign affairs; Yu Hui-yung, minister of culture; Liu Hsiang-ping, minister of public health; Chuang Tse-tung, minister in charge of the Physical Culture and Sports Commission; and Huang Chen, chief of the Liaison Office of China in the United States.

Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng and Mr Nixon proposed toasts at the banquet. On behalf of the Chinese Government and people, Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng extended a warm welcome to Mr and Mrs Nixon and other American guests. Speaking of his revisit to China, Mr Nixon said that it was a special pleasure to meet someone after a long period of being apart. He wished the friendship between the Chinese people and the American people evergreen. Present at the banquet were members of Mr Nixon's entourage, Deputy Chief Harry E.T. Thayer and other officials of the Liaison Office of the United States of America in China and the journalists covering the China visit by Mr and Mrs Nixon. In the course of the banquet, hosts and guests chatted cordially and the band played Chinese and American music.

Also present were: Members of the NPC Standing Committee Pei Shih-chang, Lin Chiao-chih and Fu Yu-fang; leading members of government departments, the Peking Municipal Revolutionary Committee and other departments Wang Hai-jung, Chu Mu-chih, Hsieh Ching-i, Chai Shu-fan, Hsiao Peng, Liu Cheng-ching, Liu Hua-ching, Wang Yeh-chiu, Teng Kang, Shen Tu and Tseng Shao-tung; and representatives of Peking workers and commune peasants Han Cha-hsien, Chang Ping-kuei, Wang Hsueh-li, Wang Yu-hu, Ma Feng-ming, Chen Yung-hsiang, Yin Wei-chen, Li Chin, Chu Tsung-i and Kuo Li-yun; representatives of minority nationalities Tien Chung-shan, Jeyihan, Hsu Ming-yueh, Shuang Pao and Chahsiwanghsu; and representatives of scientific, medical, educational, literary and art and sports circles. Tu Yu-ming, Huang Wei and Yang Nan-tsun were also present.

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Hua Banquet Toast

Peking NCNA in English 1728 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 22, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Following is the full text of Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng's toast at the banquet in honour of Richard M. Nixon, former president of the United States of America, here this evening:

Mr and Mrs Nixon, ladies and gentlemen, comrades and friends, Four years ago, President Nixon visited our country, and China and the United States issued the famous Shanghai Communiqué. That historic event has played a major role in improving and developing Sino-U.S. relations and exerted a far-reaching influence internationally. Mr Nixon certainly showed farsightedness in taking this courageous action in his capacity as U.S. President at a time when contacts between the Chinese and American peoples had been suspended for more than 20 years. The redwood saplings President Nixon brought here as a gift from the American people to the Chinese people are growing sturdily, symbolizing a new phase of friendship between the Chinese and American peoples. In the 4 years since then, contacts between our two peoples have resumed and the relations between our two countries improved on the basis of the principles set forth in the Shanghai Communiqué. On the significant occasion of the fourth anniversary of President Nixon's first visit to China, Mr and Mrs Nixon have come again to visit our country at the invitation of the Chinese Government. It is my pleasure to extend, on behalf of the Chinese Government and people, our warm welcome to you and the other American guests.

The American people are a great people. The Chinese people are a great people. Our two peoples have always been friendly to each other. True, China and the United States have different social systems and ideologies and there are differences of principle on quite a number of issues; however, our two countries have many points in common in the world today. The Chinese Government has always pursued and will consistently pursue the line, principles and policies laid down by Chairman Mao in the field of foreign affairs. We remain convinced that so long as both sides earnestly implement the principles of the Shanghai Communiqué, Sino-U.S. relations will further improve, and that this conforms to the common desire of the Chinese and American peoples.

In the past 4 years, the world has witnessed a series of important events, and encouraging changes have taken place in the international situation. The situation characterized by great disorder under heaven is developing further and becoming better and better. The danger of the outbreak of a new war keeps growing as a result of the intense rivalry for world hegemony, and in particular, that imperialism which flaunts the signboard of "socialism" has reached out its grasping hands everywhere and carried out rapid expansion; it has become the main source of war. This is a fact which attracts people's attention today. The only realistic and effective way to cope with this situation is for the peoples of the world to heighten their vigilance, strengthen their unity and get well prepared against war. It will be recalled that Mr Nixon wrote in June 1972 that aggressive ambitions are held in check not by idealism. It should also be noted that this expansionism is pitiable, being lacking in capabilities though wild in ambition. [paragraph continues]

Its aggression and expansion everywhere bear the seeds of defeat. History has time and again proved that expansionists never come to a good end; such was the case with Hitler, and the hegemonism of today will come to no better end. It is the people, and definitely not hegemonism, that is really powerful.

In China, a revolutionary mass debate is going on in such circles as education, science and technology. It is a continuation and deepening of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. It fully demonstrates the extensive democracy practised in our country under the system of socialism. We are confident that, through this debate, Chairman Mao's proletarian revolutionary line will find its way deeper into the hearts of the people, and our socialist motherland will be further consolidated. It will also enable us to do better in making a greater contribution to humanity in accordance with Chairman Mao's teachings.

The next fifty to a hundred years or so will be a great era of radical change throughout the world, an earth-shaking era without equal in any previous historical period. The road of advance of human history is always tortuous, but we firmly believe that the people of the world, by waging unremitting struggle, will usher in a most splendid future.

Finally, I propose a toast to the health of former U.S. President Nixon and Mrs Nixon, to the health of the other American guests, to the health of all friends and comrades present, and to the friendship between the Chinese and American peoples!

Nixon Banquet Toast

Peking NCNA in English 1804 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 22, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Following is the full text of former U.S. President Richard M. Nixon's toast at the banquet given in his honour by the State Council here this evening:

Mr acting Premier, Mr Foreign Minister, and all of you distinguished guests on this very happy occasion,

Soon after we arrived last night in Peking for our second visit, a Chinese friend said to me that to meet someone after a long period of being apart is a special pleasure. That is exactly the way we feel tonight.

As it has already been indicated that it was just 4 years ago this week that the Shanghai Communique was issued, [as received] [Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese at 1840 GMT on 22 February renders this sentence as follows: "As it has already been indicated, it was just 4 years ago this week that the Shanghai Communique was issued."] That historic document ended a generation of confrontation and conflict between our two countries and began an era of negotiation and consultation and also progress toward both goals we share together.

Acting Premier Hua tonight has eloquently supported the principles of the Shanghai Communique. And President Ford in his state visit to China in December strongly affirmed the support of the United States for the principles of the Shanghai Communique. This indicates that this document was something more than the usual statement signed by two leaders of a nation or two nations at any particular time. [Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese at 1840 GMT on 22 February renders this sentence as follows: "This indicates that this document was more important than any usual statement of a general nature signed by the leaders of two countries and by two countries."] Because what we see here is that while the interests of great powers are involved that even though the leaders may change the interests remain the same. And this is because the principles of the Shanghai Communique were principles that were in the interests of both the People's Republic of China and the United States of America. Those principles are just as strongly held today as they were 4 years ago.

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I recall that I first had the honour of meeting Chairman Mao 4 years ago. We spoke very candidly and honestly about the fact that we came from different backgrounds and that we had many areas in which our beliefs on philosophical, political and economic matters were different.

What then brought us together? This was the answer: History has brought us together. And now 4 years after that meeting history calls on our two nations to continue to work together to build on the foundation that we laid 4 years ago and to build on the document which set forth the principles on which we had agreed. We must realize how vital it is to do so, because the future not only of the 800 million people who live in the People's Republic of China and the 200 million people who live in the United States of America but the future of all the people in this world depend upon the reliability, and the capability and the determination of our two nations to work together for the cause of peace with security for all nations.

There are of course some who believe that the mere act of signing a statement of principles or a diplomatic conference will bring instant and lasting peace. This is naive. There cannot and will not be lasting and secure peace until every nation in the world respects the security and independence of every other nation large or small. Let me illustrate that point by reading directly from the Shanghai Communique: "Both sides are of the view that it will be against the interests of the peoples of the world for any major country to collude with another against other countries or for major countries to divide up the world into spheres of influence." [Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese at 1840 GMT on 22 February renders the final phase as: "spheres of interests."]

And when all countries in the world as have the People's Republic of China and the United States of America subscribed to the supported that principle. [Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese at 1840 GMT on 22 February renders the immediately preceding words as: "supported those principles,] then there will be real peace and security for all countries in the world.

In his remarks tonight the acting premier has spoken eloquently of the redwood saplings that we had the honour to plant at the beautiful city of Hangchow 4 years ago. [Peking NCNA Domestic Service in Chinese at 1840 GMT on 22 February omitted the words "beautiful city" in referring to Hangchow] When my daughter Julie and her husband David Eisenhower returned from their trip to China, they told us that they had been informed in Hangchow that over 5,000 seeds had already been taken from those saplings and will be planted all over China. And when a dinner was given for them as they were about to leave China from Shanghai, their Chinese host made the statement that those California redwoods were a symbol of the evergreen friendship between China and the United States. And tonight I hope and trust that in the years ahead like the giant California redwoods China and the United States will grow strong and tall in their friendship.

And so it is in that spirit that I ask you to join me in the return toast: To Chairman Mao, to the Acting Premier Hua, to all of our hosts and your guests and to the evergreen friendship of the Chinese people and the American people.

AFP Report

Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 22 Feb 76 OW

[Excerpts] Peking, Feb 22 (AFP)--Speaking at a banquet given for him by Chinese leaders, Mr Nixon clung to the subject of Sino-American relations since his "historic" visit to Peking exactly 4 years ago when he was the American president.

Mr Nixon's speech followed one made by his host, Hua Kuo-feng, who was speaking officially for the first time since being named as interim prime minister on February 7.

Mr Nixon spoke with dignity and barely-concealed sentimentality of what was probably his greatest success in international affairs: The establishing of better relations between People's China and the United States following his last Peking visit.

Mr Nixon said: "This document (the Shanghai Communique) is something more than a statement signed by two leaders of two nations at any particular time. Even if the leaders may change, the interests remain the same.

"The principles of the Shanghai Communique are in the interests of the peoples of the USA and of China".

Through that statement, the former president seemed to be referring at the same time to his own forced resignation in 1974, to prime minister Chou En-lai's death and, perhaps, to the disgrace that is apparently threatening Teng Hsiao-ping who, only 2 weeks ago, had seemed destined to succeed Mr Chou.

Previously, Mr Hua had emphasized that Sino-American relations "will further improve so long as both sides earnestly implement the principles of the Shanghai Communique".

Among the Chinese present at the banquet were three former Kuomintang (Nationalist army) officers who were freed last year after having been in prison since 1949. The diplomatic corps was not present at the reception, with the exception of certain members of the U.S. Liaison Office here. The musical programme was very similar to that of Mr Nixon's last visit and included "Home of the Range", "Turkey in the Straw" and "Beautiful America".

PEOPLE'S DAILY FEATURES NIXON'S VISIT

Tokyo KYODO in English 0536 GMT 23 Feb 76 TK

[Text] Peking, Feb 23 KYODO--The Chinese Communist Party organ PEOPLE'S DAILY Monday carried on the front page three articles and two photos concerning the current China trip of former U.S. President Richard Nixon. The articles covered Sunday's welcome reception for Nixon, his talks with new Acting Premier Hua Kuo-feng and condolatory cull on the widow of Chou En-lai.

One of the photos was a souvenir picture taken prior to the reception and the other showed Nixon meeting with the acting premier.

The paper also carried the full texts of speeches made by the former U.S. president and Hua at the reception on the second page, apparently signifying China's high appraisal for Nixon and China's position to attach great importance to Sino-American relations. It was the first time that Acting Premier Hua's movement was reported on the front page of the PEOPLE'S DAILY.

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CHAIRMAN MAO MEETS WITH NIXON 23 FEB

Peking NCNA in English 0805 GMT 23 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 23, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Chairman Mao Tse-tung today met with Richard M Nixon, former president of the United States of America, Mrs Nixon and John V Brennan, a member of his party.

At the meeting, Chairman Mao shook hands with the American guests, welcoming them to China, and had a friendly conversation with Mr Nixon on a wide range of subjects. At the end of the conversation, Chairman Mao asked Mr Nixon to convey his regards to President Gerald R Ford upon returning home. Present at the meeting and conversation were Hua Kuo-feng, Chinese acting premier, Chiao Kuan-hua, foreign minister, Huang Chen, chief of the Liaison Office of China in the United States, Wang Hai-jung, vice-foreign minister, and Tang Wen-sheng and Chang Han-chih, deputy department directors of the Foreign Ministry.

HUA KUO-FENG, NIXON CONTINUE CONVERSATIONS

Peking NCNA in English 1231 GMT 23 Feb 76 OW

[Text] Peking, February 23, 1976 (HSINHUA)--Acting Premier of the State Council Hua Kuo-feng and former president of the United States of America Richard M Nixon continued talks here this afternoon.

NIXON VISITS PEKING AGRICULTURE EXHIBIT

Hong Kong AFP in English 0718 GMT 23 Feb 76 OW

[By George Biannic]

[Excerpt] Peking, Feb 23 (AFP)--Former President Richard Nixon, here on an official visit, said today that in the future China would become "a great industrial power". Mr Nixon was speaking after a visit lasting more than 2 hours to an agricultural exhibition aimed at showing progress made by China in the agricultural sphere over recent years. He said that China had avoided the "mistake" often made by developing countries which sought "instant" industrialisation and let agriculture fall behind". He added: "As a result neither succeeds because without a firm and strong agriculture there cannot be the industrial growth that a country needs.

"This exhibition does indicate emphasis on agriculture that speaks well for the future development of the People's Republic of China not only as a nation that can feed and clothe and house its people thanks to agriculture but also as a nation that will be a great industrial power". Mr Nixon, who was accompanied by his wife Pat, showed great interest in all aspects of Chinese agriculture asking a number of questions of mechanisation and distribution networks etc.

On leaving the exhibition hall accompanied by Deputy Chinese Agriculture Minister Hsiao Peng, who acted as a guide to President Gerald Ford when he was here last December, Mr Nixon, who is being received here as if he were a head of state, seemed to forget that he is now no more than an ordinary visitor. It was as a representative of the United States that he proposed agricultural cooperation between America and China saying that the two countries could work together because they had both made great progress in agriculture not only on the production side but also in the field of distribution.

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SOVIET UNION

NCNA DETAILS 'ABUSIVE RHETORIC OF NEW TSARS'

Peking NCNA in English. 1718 GMT 21 Feb 76 CW

[By NCNA correspondent]

[Text] Peking, February 21, 1976 (HSINHUA)--The new tsars have recently indulged themselves in abusive rhetoric and gone to such length as to trot out a philosophy of abuse. Singing high praises of abuse, the Soviet LITERARY GAZETTE not long ago carried a remarkable article tracing the "history of abuse" and summing up the Russian "art" of using invectives. In all seriousness, it calls abuse a weapon "to be used to confirm moral superiority". "Civilized abuse" and "positive abuse" will be very useful, it asserts. How invectives could be "civilized" and what "art" is needed when they are used to pursue political aims--these are best exemplified in the Soviet press and by the performances of Soviet diplomats abroad.

In a vociferous frenzied campaign of abuse launched recently by the new tsars, all their mouthpieces have been cranked up, their news agencies TASS and APN taking the lead, followed by PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, LITERARY GAZETTE and many other journals. Soviet ambassadors, counsellors and correspondents in London, Bonn and Vienna have also taken the field themselves to pour out a torrent of vituperation. Incomplete figures show that in just a little over a month, at least a dozen West European political and military figures have been attacked by name. They include British Conservative leader Mrs Margaret Thatcher, British former Conservative cabinet minister Julian Amery, West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, West German Defence Minister Georg Leber, Belgian Prime Minister Leo Tindemans and Belgian National Defence Minister Paul Vanden Boeynants. Many radio stations and journals of West Germany, Britain, France and Austria have also become their targets of attack. The charges are that they "oppose detente", "revive cold war," they are "fanatical" and "pursued by nightmares" and so on and so forth. In some cases, the abuse is as coarse as it is personal. Soviet diplomats, from ambassador to counsellor accredited abroad, went so far as to hurl abuse at others face to face. A Soviet newsmen once even tried to thrust his abusive article on a foreign journal and demanded a prompt reply. All this bullying is too far from "civilized". Why such insane fury of the gentlemen in the Kremlin?

It transpired that they go berserk because they have been stung on a raw spot by the political and military figures and journalists of Western Europe who speak the truth. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, for one, was viciously attacked in person simply because the British Conservative leader said in a speech that the Soviet Union is "bent on world dominance", because she warned against the dangers of "falling for an illusory detente" and stressed the need to increase national defence. The Russians are irritated by her speech, notes the TIMES of London because they dislike "any forthright and convincing statement to Western public opinion which might disturb the mesmeric but nervous trance induced in the West by detente."